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SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.
 December 25.—*Staghound*, from Melbourne, 150 tons, Captain Taylor, from San Francisco. October 9. Passengers—Messrs. R. A. Webster, J. Wilks, T. C. Hume, Henry, Bond, and H. A. Smith.
 December 25.—*Palmer*, brig, 134 tons, Captain Wyburn, from Melbourne by the 10th instant. Passengers—J. in the steerage. H. C. Smith, agent.
 December 25.—*Olney*, schooner, 34 tons, Captain Clark, from Portland Bay 2nd instant. Passengers—J. in the steerage. Harper, Brothers, agents.

DEPARTURES.
 December 25.—*Wilton*, for Newcastle.
 December 25.—*Dart*, for Melbourne.
 December 25.—*Wilton*, for Newcastle.

PROJECTED DEPARTURES.
 December 25.—*Wilton*, for Melbourne, 150 tons, Captain Taylor, from San Francisco. October 9. Passengers—Messrs. R. A. Webster, J. Wilks, T. C. Hume, Henry, Bond, and H. A. Smith.
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IMPORTS.
 December 25.—*Staghound*, from San Francisco: 1544 sacks barley, 50 sacks wheat, 100 bags rice, 5000 feet timber, 40 bags potatoes, 222 bags oats, 51 packages boots and shoes, 45 cases shovels, 222 bags.

SHIP MAIL.
 Mails will be closed at the Post Office, as follows:—
 For Hobart Town, by the *Wilton*, this day, at noon, if not underweighed.
 For Melbourne, by the *Wilton*, this day, at noon, if not underweighed.
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The Sydney Morning Herald.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1864.

COMPARATIVELY remote from the scene of action, and not so directly interested in the event as if actual residents in Victoria, we feel in some respects more competent to estimate the real character of the Ballarat revolt, than those who, belonging to the colony, can scarcely avoid being subject to the influences of passion and personal prejudice. Distance of place acts in some measure like remoteness of time, and if we do not express ourselves with all the serenity and impartiality which should belong to historical narrative, we may hope more nearly to approach that philosophical temper than those who are not merely contemporaries, with these unhappy disturbances, but are immediately affected by them.

Desiring to think and write in this spirit, we are led, in a general way, to attribute the Ballarat affair more to a combination of fortuitous circumstances, than to any serious error of policy on the part of the Executive of the colony. We believe no man or set of men could have prescribed beforehand, what manner of public authority should be fitted for the Government of the Victorian gold fields. The most successful Governments on earth have not been so fashioned; but have been the result of experiment, extended through long periods, and worked out by the slow process of time. We are not, therefore, inclined to ascribe to the Ballarat affair, any more to a combination of fortuitous circumstances, than to any serious error of policy on the part of the Executive of the colony. We believe no man or set of men could have prescribed beforehand, what manner of public authority should be fitted for the Government of the Victorian gold fields. The most successful Governments on earth have not been so fashioned; but have been the result of experiment, extended through long periods, and worked out by the slow process of time.

Many thousands of active and enterprising men rush to Ballarat to get gold. Though down in the city there is a Governor and all the apparatus of British rule—a Legislature, superior courts of justice, committing magistrates, and constables of a Division—these diggers could scarcely avoid the sentiment that with them society was resolved into its elements. But technically the land and the gold were the Queen's, or rather, since the Waste Lands Act, the conditional property of the colony; and it was not so to be given away, or within the jurisdiction of Mr. Justice Lyne.

So there ensued "the Commissioner," and "the officers," and "the Troopers," and our ancient friends the enrolled Out-Pensioners. It was unfortunate, but the banding-together of many thousands of able-bodied men away from all the ordinary restraints of society, and the marshalling of those representing the Government, almost suggested ideas of resistance on the one hand, and an aggressive spirit of domination on the other. The diggers when not at their tools, would like the excitement of a little political agitation; and the Gold Licensee afforded the desired text to the agitators who are ever to be found even before they are wanted. The troopers would feel the enmity of an idle life in cantonments, and would probably welcome opportunities to show how energetically they could act under colour of the law. Thus the "camp" and the "diggers" became soon established as essentially antagonistic forces.

The diggers would be seen at work with their red shirts, and bare throats and arms. The heroes of the camp would be seen in military guise, stiff, padded, and armed, forming a distinct caste—a kind of colonial Rajpoot. Between the two classes hatred, disgust, and contempt, were reciprocally engendered in a very short time.

Looking at the progress of events we can have no manner of doubt that there has existed a great impatience of all kinds of control on the part of the diggers from the very first; but we believe there never have arisen any disposition to actual revolt had it not been for mischievous agitators, stimulating the turbulent to violence, and cowering the more pacific into passive acquiescence. That on the other hand those who represented authority became insolent, and overbearing seems to be undoubted. Some mobbing and rioting would, under this state of things, be an almost inevitable necessity among Englishmen; but that the requiring a license from a man to dig for gold on ground not his own,—the amount of fee made payable for it,—or any of the acts of the diggings officials which we have heard any account, however exaggerated,—could form the smallest, we will not say justification, but excuse, for taking up arms and raising the standard of revolt, we hold to be an utterly pure notion. And it was the less excusable, and the more disgraceful, this revolutionary escapade, that the local Government was studiously bent on acting a conciliatory part, so much so indeed as to subject itself to animadversions by no means flattering, as regards its want of becoming energy, in the first duty of upholding the Queen's authority. We are, in short, led irresistibly to the conclusion that while there have been some real grievances, and some general discontent at the Victoria Diggings, there were not a few bad spirits there who were determined, with or without cause, to have a row, and if possible get up a colonial revolution. It is expressly said that many foreign agitators had been actively at work; and the captain of the late revolt is, we are glad to say, no British subject. Such gentlemen had better go back to their barricades, for these colonies, we promise them, are no fit places for any species of political brigandage.

It appears that the license system is doomed at the Port Phillip diggings; and, on the whole, the Government are wise in giving it up, notwithstanding the armed opposition which has been raised against it. The Government are strong enough now to show that the concession is not extorted from their fears. It will be very desirable that the police required at the diggings should not be agents of the revenue, but confined to their appropriate duties; indeed, that public authority should be as little seen and felt as possible there, so long as men are peaceably and industriously following their avocations.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria proclaimed Martial Law. Of the necessity of that proclamation we believe no loyal subject, no lover of law and order, will have any doubt. Of its being inconsistent with

strict legality, without express statutory authority, we believe there can be also no doubt; and we were therefore glad to see the Local Government of Victoria applying for a bill of indemnity to the Local Legislature, which has been very promptly given. The Attorney-General of the colony, however, made, if we may judge from the newspaper report, an extremely inconsistent speech on the occasion; seeming to claim a distinct right on the part of the Crown to proclaim Martial Law. It is clear, however, the Crown had no such right; and the very application for an indemnity is wholly condemnatory of the power contended for. In Ceylon, where we have more a military occupation of Indian territory, than a colonial possession, and at the Cape, where the law is mainly of Dutch origin, the substitution of martial law for the civil law, may, for aught we know, be an essential attribute of the Executive power. The Irish statute-book, too, may warrant proclamations bringing Irish districts within certain repressive powers; but as yet, in these colonies we have fortunately been able to get on without trenching upon the Great Charter or the Bill of Rights. It was left for the Ballarat insurgents to force the Local Government of Victoria into a temporary invasion of those great safeguards of Englishmen.

The mantle of dominion is fitly named "the purple," for it is the hue of power. The nations to whom has fallen the sceptre of the world have been compelled to defend it by the same means by which it was acquired—force. This it is which makes the history of the past little more than a chronicle of wars and battles. Since the close of the great war of the Revolution, in 1815, in which millions of men perished, Europe has experienced what has been called a "forty years' peace." The phrase only meant that the Seat of War had been changed from the territories of the old political states to the borders of their dominions—to the outposts and debatable grounds of civilisation; it never really ceased to exist.

In this "forty years' peace" we have seen several wars, which are only called little in comparison with that mighty tempest which swept over all Europe for a whole generation. In themselves they were great enough to cause incalculable suffering and misery—great enough to exhibit human nature in its worst aspect, great enough to bedew the earth in a thousand places with what is sadder even than human tears, and only not great enough, in some cases, for success when the best sympathies of the world were enlisted on the side of the vanquished.

If we look back over this period of peace, we shall find that it has really been distinguished for the number of its wars! And we have ourselves contributed our full share to the chronicle. France took but a brief repose after the long conflict in which she had been engaged, and in which she had suffered so deeply, ere she entered upon the war in Algeria, which cost her millions sterling of her treasure, and—the computation is from a French authority—the lives of five hundred thousand men! Yet the struggle in Algeria passes for one of the "little wars" of an age of peace.

Russia has in the same period had her wars; one with the tribes of the Caucasus, who have long bidden defiance to her empire—and another with Poland, which, hemmed around by hostile or unfriendly states, and receiving no resources from without, fell, and was crushed. The conflict was a bloody one, and marked by such courage and determination against overwhelming numbers, that it can scarcely be called a "little war," though History, perhaps, will so record it.

Then there have been the wars of succession in Spain and Portugal, between the partisans of rival branches of the same royal family; they were wars of the worst kind, being waged between men of the same blood and language, and like all civil conflicts, were prolific of the most dreadful atrocities. The civil war in Spain, which lasted seven years, was perfectly hideous in its cruelties. The words seemed literally fulfilled, that "man's heart was taken from out of him, and there was given to him instead the heart of a beast." This, too, has gone into the catalogue of "little wars" that history dismisses with a passing notice.

To come to ourselves, we have been, for a people, in a time of peace, remarkably warlike; we have had a battle of Algiers, and of Navarino; we have had a Burmese war, an Afghan war, a China war, a Scinde war, and a Borneo war. In some of these operations we have gained all the glory that can be derived from success; in others we have met with checks, disasters, and loss.

Looking back upon all these conflicts, can we admit that the last forty years have been absolutely years of peace? True it is that the great Powers of Europe had not then come into collision with each other, but there were not wanting indications of the coming storm on the political horizon.

And now we have another war on our hands, which will bear comparison in importance with any of its predecessors, and the present features of which are not so distinctly marked as to exclude all anxiety with regard to what may be its termination.

Brilliant as was the intelligence which reached us by the *Argo*, relative to the victories of the allied armies in the Crimea, it is impossible not to see that a certain degree of uneasiness prevails as to the sincerity of the other great Powers of Europe; we allude more particularly to Austria. There has been a want of candour about all the diplomatic movements of the Cabinet of Vienna, which lead us to view with distrust any statement which has been made in favour of its union or sympathy with the three Allied Powers. The *Montevideo* has announced that

"Baron de Hubner has been charged by the Count de Bulo to address to the Minister of Foreign Affairs the sincerest congratulations of the Cabinet of Vienna on the successes obtained by our troops in the Crimea."

An announcement which seems at variance with all the rules of diplomatic courtesy, more especially as coming from a power which has never distinctly asserted its sympathy with either side. Doubtless it behoves Austria to step warily lest she should become, sooner than she expects, what her own astute METTERNICH said classic Italy already is—an historical expression. It must not be forgotten that when Austria was on the verge of losing Hungary, and her ill-consolidated empire appeared to be crumbling to pieces, she called in the aid of another congenial despot, who sprang eagerly forward to exercise once more his favourite character of protector-general of absolutism in distress, and but for the intervention of Russia, there can be but little doubt that the Hungarians would have entered Vienna in triumph as conquerors and liberators.

The success of the Hungarian campaign and its great results rendered the influence of the Czar predominant at the councils of Austria; and can it be imagined that even in so sickle and time-serving a Court as that of Vienna that influence has entirely passed away, to say nothing of the

natural feelings of gratitude for his intervention at so critical a moment? We dare not think so, and we tremble at the prospect of a war which must necessarily, in spite of the present profession of neutrality, embroil the whole of Europe in misery and bloodshed for an indefinite period, and which would probably not end until it had produced very important changes in the political condition of the whole Continent.

MELBOURNE.
 (From our own Correspondent.)
 DECEMBER 26.—The late storm has been succeeded by a complete calm in our affairs political. The Legislative Council has risen for the Christmas recess. The Commissioners of enquiry into the condition of the gold fields have arrived at Ballarat, and the public generally seem willing to wait the result of the commission, and to give the new regime of Mr. Haines a fair trial. I think I stated in my last that my impression of this gentleman is highly favourable in every respect, except as regards business capabilities, and ability to cope with the very serious financial difficulties which must at once beset him. Of his natural talents and honesty of purpose I have a high opinion, and if he can manage the financial question he will probably succeed, for he will soon learn the official routine, and his conscientious desire to do his duty will induce him, by double diligence, to acquire that intimate knowledge of the various colonial questions which is essential to success in the House and in the Government.

From all the evidence that has transpired it is clear to me that the task of managing the gold fields presents no point of difficulty whatever, and that men of the ordinary capacity can preserve order and collect the necessary revenue if they go to work in a fair and friendly spirit. This, in my opinion has been proved beyond doubt by the peace and good order which has prevailed at the several diggings at particular times, under particular men, no way distinguished for ability. Ballarat is a notable example. Up to a certain period this gold field was an exception, and an example to all the others. But a change was made in the officers in charge, both in the police and gold departments, and from that moment there was a growing dissatisfaction. The system of changes in the officers seems to have been very absurdly conducted. Many cases have been mentioned to me in which it would appear that the chief cause of removal was the efficient and popular manner in which the officer did his duty. I am further convinced that in regard to the gold fields generally, it has been a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth. Most of the officials have had too little employment, or have been neglectful of duty, and idle, and we know that idleness is the mother of mischief. Whatever may be done in reference to the license fee, it is quite certain that the establishments of gold commissioners and police will be reduced by at least one-half. Both services contain a large proportion of "black sheep," and if these can be picked out, the real efficiency of the remainder will be amazingly improved. This is the universal opinion. But after all, as I formerly mentioned, the grand question is the abolition of the license tax and of the gold commission. On this question, among all those with whom I meet, diggers, townsmen, and men of every class, the opinion is unanimous in favour of total abolition. I believe it can be shown satisfactorily that the present system entails a serious loss on the revenue, but even if a considerable revenue could be raised, it would ill compensate for the degrading and dishonouring circumstances in which British subjects are frequently placed by it. This is well explained by Mr. Horne (the author of *Orion*) now, or lately, a gold commissioner, in a report recently published in the newspapers. He says:—"In the first place, nobody likes to pay for a gold-digger's license if he can find no gold. He feels it a provocation, especially if he has been unsuccessful during six or seven months. This is the fate of the great majority. Though labouring in the hope of good success, they barely make wages, and very often not that; while others are absolutely losers by all their labour." And further—"Besides this, the mode of collecting or supervising the license fee is always a great provocation. It is the duty of the commissioner to take out a party of mounted and foot police several times a week in search of unlicensed miners. Parties of three or four are despatched in different directions, to demand the production of the license, to search for those who secrete themselves and to intercept or overtake fugitives. But, apart from the consideration of defaulters, the demand (especially in a tone of command from a trooper or foot constable) made upon a fatigued and perspiring miner, half-a-dozen times in a single morning, is, no doubt, a severe trial of human patience. Upon each occasion he has to exume from his pocket or some secret recess in his rickety waistband, the moist and tattered paper of his license, which will scarcely bear to be unfolded. Suppose the miner to be a man of some education, and the policeman a man of no education, arrogant and in liquor, the provocation caused by this one official, in a series of gullies, is quite sufficient to create indignation and disgust among two or three hundred miners in the course of a morning."

Clearly such is not treatment to which free-born men can long submit; and the only wonder is that they have endured it so long. Withal, however, I do not think that the matter would have come to such a fatal issue, and I think the claims of the diggers and their position would at this moment have been stronger had not the foreign element predominated in the late scenes at Ballarat. Several foreigners have written furious letters to the newspapers asserting their right to interfere in the internal affairs of nations which they visit; but I think the common sense of mankind is against them. Generally speaking, a foreigner is ignorant of the laws, constitution, rights, and privileges of the country where he sojourns, and in the present case it has been proved that the physical force, the insurrectionary principle, was more readily adopted by the foreign part of the diggers than the moral force, the constitutional agitation, which is more familiar and more congenial to the British mind. It is rather a singular fact, that from 1st July, 1861, to 1st July, 1862, only 76, and in the following year only 96, foreigners were naturalised in this colony.

I regret to say that as yet commercial and financial affairs in this colony show no sign of improvement, small failures still continue, and confidence is still prostrate. Purchases are from hand to mouth, and sales are made for cash; payment being made before delivery. This latter stipulation has been found necessary, in consequence of the tricks of too many fraudulent scoundrels, taking delivery, forgetting to call and pay, and probably in a few days walking into the Insolvent Court. In other cases, when payment has been made, it has been after a month's dunning. Altogether, it seems too evident that there have been too many unworthy of credit, have been enabled to carry on business, and injure the fair trader. This is too well illustrated also by several cases of embezzlement, one of which you will find noticed in the newspapers.

The banks are greatly blamed for their lavish and indiscriminate discounts at a former period, and for their restrictions on good houses now. I believe it will be a year before we have a sound state of trade. But the wedding and the clearing, and the experience gained, will therefore be of vast advantage. The most of the respectable houses are standing wonderfully well, and there is some hope of the turn taking place in a month or six weeks. It is said that the exchange will shortly be further lowered. Indeed, I am inclined to think that the balance of trade must

soon be decidedly in our favour. Flour remains steady, at 48s to 49s for the best. Spirits are not very firm. Timber is quite nominal. Potatoes are falling rapidly; some new Sydney were lately sold on the wharf at 42s. Within the last day or two candles have shown a declining tendency. Sugars have not nearly come up to the amount of duty. Tea, congo, is sold in small parcels at 40s to 41s, that is, with the duty. Trade generally is very dull, and the changes in price since my last are not worth noting.

MORFON BAY.
 (From our Correspondent.)
 DECEMBER 21.—The Boomerang met with head winds, and was a day longer in making the passage than usual. She did not arrive until Tuesday forenoon, and, as she was dressed with flag, and kept firing guns at intervals after coming in sight of the wharf, we knew at once that there must be a European mail on board containing important news. The most interesting feature of that news was known even before she reached the wharf, as the "Fall of Sebastopol" was so generally expected. As the Boomerang was a schooner, she was not expected to have a large cargo of mail, and as soon as the news was generally ascertained it was received with a loud cheer. Shortly afterwards flags made their appearance at various points of the town and neighbourhood, and at night we had bonfires, firing of muskets, &c.

There is a communication in the *Free Press* of Tuesday which tends to call forth fresh all the public interest in the mysterious fate of the Boomerang and his party. There can be no doubt of the honest and patriotic motives of the Boomerang, and that he formed part of a party of men who were very distinctly given. It is possible that those from whom Leichhardt obtained the horses taken on his expedition may recognise them, and thus place the matter beyond doubt. The evidence of the Boomerang's expedition, as the Boomerang, with one of his party, was very distinctly given. It is possible that those from whom Leichhardt obtained the horses taken on his expedition may recognise them, and thus place the matter beyond doubt. The evidence of the Boomerang's expedition, as the Boomerang, with one of his party, was very distinctly given. It is possible that those from whom Leichhardt obtained the horses taken on his expedition may recognise them, and thus place the matter beyond doubt. The evidence of the Boomerang's expedition, as the Boomerang, with one of his party, was very distinctly given. It is possible that those from whom Leichhardt obtained the horses taken on his expedition may

SALES BY AUCTION.

KING-STREET AUCTION MART.—Sole by public auction and private treaty of all second-hand furniture bought and sold; cash only on goods for immediate sale; and also personally on the premises of J. M. HUGHES, Auctioneer, 111 King-street, on an early day.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.—Extensive Sale—200 packages of Paper, Particulars in the Sydney Morning Herald, By CORRIE and HARBOTTLE, at the Bank Auction Rooms, on an early day.

CORRIE and HARBOTTLE will sell, at the Bank Auction Rooms, on WEDNESDAY, December 27th, 1854, at 11 o'clock precisely, 30 crates earthenware, assorted, 10 Chinese and other paintings.

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PLEASANT VIEW.—NEW MILITARY BARRACKS, pleasantly situated on elevated site, adjoining Flinders, the residence of G. A. Lloyd, Esq., and immediately in the vicinity of the residence of J. W. Porter, Esq., commanding a magnificent view of the waters of Port Jackson, the Sydney Harbour, and the surrounding country. It is, in fact, one of the most healthy and delightful positions that could be selected.

BOWDEN and THRELKELD have received instructions to sell by auction, at the City Mart, 21, George-street, on FRIDAY, 28th instant, at 11 o'clock, Four valuable building allotments, being Nos. 4, 5, 6, and 7, each 40 feet frontage to a street and Government reserve road, by a depth of 60 feet.

The above allotments adjoin the two little water courses which form the north-eastern gable-end of the Victoria Barracks. For further particulars, or persons that require drawings, or better views, or more details and plans, no spot is to be sold equal to these allotments.

Terms—25 per cent. cash deposit, 50 per cent. at three months, the residue may remain on mortgage for a term.

BOWDEN and THRELKELD have received instructions to sell by auction at the Union Wharf, on FRIDAY, 28th instant, at 11 o'clock, The cargo of the Isabella, from San Francisco, comprising an assortment of iron, copper, brass, steel, tin, lead, zinc, and other metals, selected expressly for the market.

SCANTLING.—Building Timber, consisting of 1000 feet of 4x4, 4x6, 4x8, 4x10, 4x12, 4x14, 4x16, 4x18, 4x20, 4x22, 4x24, 4x26, 4x28, 4x30, 4x32, 4x34, 4x36, 4x38, 4x40, 4x42, 4x44, 4x46, 4x48, 4x50, 4x52, 4x54, 4x56, 4x58, 4x60, 4x62, 4x64, 4x66, 4x68, 4x70, 4x72, 4x74, 4x76, 4x78, 4x80, 4x82, 4x84, 4x86, 4x88, 4x90, 4x92, 4x94, 4x96, 4x98, 4x100, 4x102, 4x104, 4x106, 4x108, 4x110, 4x112, 4x114, 4x116, 4x118, 4x120, 4x122, 4x124, 4x126, 4x128, 4x130, 4x132, 4x134, 4x136, 4x138, 4x140, 4x142, 4x144, 4x146, 4x148, 4x150, 4x152, 4x154, 4x156, 4x158, 4x160, 4x162, 4x164, 4x166, 4x168, 4x170, 4x172, 4x174, 4x176, 4x178, 4x180, 4x182, 4x184, 4x186, 4x188, 4x190, 4x192, 4x194, 4x196, 4x198, 4x200, 4x202, 4x204, 4x206, 4x208, 4x210, 4x212, 4x214, 4x216, 4x218, 4x220, 4x222, 4x224, 4x226, 4x228, 4x230, 4x232, 4x234, 4x236, 4x238, 4x240, 4x242, 4x244, 4x246, 4x248, 4x250, 4x252, 4x254, 4x256, 4x258, 4x260, 4x262, 4x264, 4x266, 4x268, 4x270, 4x272, 4x274, 4x276, 4x278, 4x280, 4x282, 4x284, 4x286, 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4x2126, 4x2128, 4x2130, 4x2132, 4x2134, 4x2136, 4x2138, 4x2140, 4x2142, 4x2144, 4x2146, 4x2148, 4x2150, 4x2152, 4x2154, 4x2156, 4x2158, 4x2160, 4x2162, 4x2164, 4x2166, 4x2168, 4x2170, 4x2172, 4x2174, 4x2176, 4x2178, 4x2180, 4x2182, 4x2184, 4x2186, 4x2188, 4x2190, 4x2192, 4x2194, 4x2196, 4x2198, 4x2200, 4x2202, 4x2204, 4x2206, 4x2208, 4x2210, 4x2212, 4x2214, 4x2216, 4x2218, 4x2220, 4x2222, 4x2224, 4x2226, 4x2228, 4x2230, 4x2232, 4x2234, 4x2236, 4x2238, 4x2240, 4x2242, 4x2244, 4x2246, 4x2248, 4x2250, 4x2252,

